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Senate

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. George S. Dillard III, pastor of Peachtree City Christian Church of Peachtree City, GA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, You are the maker of us all. You are sovereign over every nation. You are the giver of wisdom, and Your wisdom teaches all of us and most certainly our leaders in this Senate, whom I lead in prayer today.

I ask You to help them to heed Your wisdom which teaches all of us to be humble, to help them seek humility, to be honest with themselves first, then each other and then us, to be just and seek justice for all. Teach them to hunger and thirst for righteousness and not self-righteousness, to embrace repentance when they fall. Most of all, teach them to walk in integrity and not to fear accountability and most of all to seek unity and not position. Have mercy on us. Give us grace. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth, in this Nation, and in this Senate, as it is in Heaven.

Through Jesus, I lift this prayer to You, O God.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. It is my understanding the Senator from Louisiana has a unanimous consent request.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent to have up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I note that we are going to have some discussions between the leaders about the agenda coming up. I would like to take a few minutes to make it perfectly clear that I think one of the first steps we need to take to assure voters that we have heard the message and that I myself have heard that message is to get our work done on the floor of the Senate.

I am a centrist. I am a proud centrist. The record expresses that I am a centrist. As I have said a thousand times on the floor and 10,000 times at home, I have been part of the coalition that has helped make this place work when it did, and I have been part of the coalition that has tried to make this place work even when it didn't. The record is clear. I don't have to say more about that.

But yesterday when I arrived in Washington thinking that it would be a very good time to begin our work and came to the Senate floor, I was actually very surprised that neither leader on either side—neither HARRY REID nor MITCH MCCONNELL—was prepared to move us to a vote that is so obvious that we should do and has been obvious for a long time, and that vote is on the Keystone Pipeline.

As chair of the energy committee, I moved this out of my committee months ago—I said I would, and I did—and worked every day that I could to get this vote up on the Senate floor.

I wish to submit for the RECORD and talk for a few minutes about it because I came here at 2:00 yesterday—it has been 24 hours. What a difference 24

hours can make when a Senator is willing to stand up and speak and lead. My leadership didn't give me permission to do this. Nobody asked me to do it. And I waited for MITCH MCCONNELL and JOHN CORNYN to call for a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, and neither one of them did.

I would like to read what Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday because at 4:00 he is going to come to the floor and try to convince us he said something else. But the reporters have the RECORD, I have the transcript, and I am going to take just a minute to read it now.

I am going to get to that in just 1 second because I have it, but I am going to paraphrase it now while the staff brings it to me.

MITCH MCCONNELL came to the floor—and I was here when he spoke, so I know it pretty well—he came to the floor, and then he took a few bows for the win, and then he said there is some work we need to do in this lameduck session. He did not mention the Keystone Pipeline. It is not in the transcript. He said three things: He said something about the budget, he said something about retroactive taxes, and he said a third thing. I will read the transcript into the RECORD in just a minute.

So I waited patiently, hoping he would say something about the Keystone Pipeline since it was talked about a lot on the campaign trail last year, but he didn't. He said that he has his agenda and that it was clear there were a few things we had to do in the lameduck, but the Keystone Pipeline wasn't one of them. So I was disappointed.

I had to wait for the second leader on the Republican side, JOHN CORNYN, to speak. There is a likely transcript that he has—here it is. Here is the McConnell transcript. This is what Mr. MCCONNELL said yesterday. This is 24 hours later, after this Senator stood on the floor and made some pretty pointed

• This "buller" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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remarks about the leadership on both sides here. This is 24 hours later. But this is what Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday:

In the weeks that remain in this Congress, we should work to accomplish the essential task of funding the Congress and preventing retroactive tax increases. We must address the expiring authority passed earlier this session for the Department of Defense to train and equip moderate, vetted Syrian opposition, and we must continue to support the efforts to address the Ebola crisis.

No mention of Keystone. Not one. If I were the leader of the majority party and came back and said there is some unfinished business, after talking incessantly about Keystone for the last 6 years, the first thing I would do is say—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent for 5 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. We can have a short Thanksgiving break. We don't have to have a long break for Christmas. The problem is we haven't been working.

Here is my list. He mentioned three things; Keystone was not on them.

Then, to shorten this, JOHN CORNYN, the Senator from Texas, came to the floor and he gave a very long list. He did in fact mention Keystone, but it was in the context of, as soon as we convene again in January—a long list—we will vote on Keystone.

I came to the floor yesterday and said that was not good enough to the leader of my leadership and the leadership of the Republican Party and said: You know what, I would like to vote on Keystone now.

So yesterday, because I gave that speech and because the public wants us to do this—more than I, the public wants a vote on Keystone and has wanted it for a long time. The House of Representatives took the bill that Senator HOEVEN and I had drafted, stripped the language of theirs, which would never have passed the Senate of the United States and would never have gotten to the President's desk, and put our language in—like I would be upset about that. I am not upset about that. I am happy about that. I am grateful that I was able yesterday, in 3 hours, to move the leadership of the Democrats in the Senate, the leadership of the Republicans in the Senate, the Republican leadership in the House to get a vote on Keystone on Tuesday.

So I am going to come back and say more about this, but for the reporters who are not used to people being as direct as I am being now, go read the transcript for yourselves so when they call press conferences later today and claim victory, please remember who was on this floor talking about it. MITCH MCCONNELL didn't mention it—the transcript is right here—did not mention the word “Keystone.” JOHN CORNYN mentioned the word “amnesty” several times and “Keystone”

once. I am the Senator who came to this floor as chair of the energy committee to say: Let's get our business done; let's start now. And that is what we are going to do. I am glad we are going to be voting very soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN DR. GEORGE DILLARD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise today to welcome my friend and fellow Georgian, Dr. George Dillard—who is the senior minister at the Peachtree City Christian Church in Peachtree City, GA—as he prayed so eloquently, as is our tradition here in the Senate. I am very pleased Dr. Dillard had a chance to come join us today.

He and his wife Renee have been married for 26 years and have three children: Tiffany, Alexis, and Stewart. I appreciate them sharing him with us today.

George has been my dear friend for many years. I have had the opportunity to pray with him in public, pray with him in private, and hear him preach in his church. He is a very eloquent individual and such a great Christian public servant in that he is so active not just in the Peachtree City Christian Church but all over the community of Peachtree City. He has been the guest Chaplain across the Capitol with our neighbors, the House of Representatives, on a couple of occasions. He regularly is the guest pastor in the Georgia Legislature under the gold dome in Atlanta. I am very pleased he is here today. I thank him for taking time to join us and for his well-spoken words getting us started in the Senate today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I wish to join the senior Senator from Georgia, who was kind enough to invite our guest Chaplain today.

George Dillard is a great chaplain in our State, a great civic leader, a great Christian leader, and a great leader in our State for many other things. He has been a dynamic chaplain in his church, a dynamic minister, and has his doctorate in biblical studies. We are delighted to welcome him to Washington, DC, where we need all the biblical help we can get. We appreciate George Dillard for his prayer, his devotion, and his faith.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent to speak immediately after the vote for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RANDOLPH D. MOSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOMINATION OF LEIGH MARTIN MAY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia; and Leigh Martin May, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

VOTE ON MOSS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 2 minutes of debate equally divided before a vote on the Moss nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, we yield back the time on our side, and I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak on behalf of the Northern District of Georgia on the appointee, Leigh May.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Reserving the right to object.

That is fine. Thank you.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, we yield back all time on this side.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows: